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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

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8. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Committee.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reaffirmed its decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of the Chairman, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups in the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and the Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States.

At the organizational meeting of its fortieth session, in the absence of a nomination for the post of Chairman by the Eastern European States, on the basis of informal consultations and without prejudice to the pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman, the Committee elected a Chairman from the African States; a Vice-Chairman each from the Eastern European States, the Latin American and the Caribbean States and from the Western European and other States, and a Rapporteur from the Asian States.

At its forty-first session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Latin American and the Caribbean States and the Rapporteur from the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year, namely the Group of African States.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its forty-first session, together with the list of documentation requested. The Assembly, by its resolution 55/234, endorsed the provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Committee. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In that connection, the Committee will select, under agenda item 2, the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit for consideration by the Committee at its forty-first session under agenda item 6.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/207 and 54/236 and decision 54/474 on the revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, attention is drawn to the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2000/8, containing the approved Regulations and Rules.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2001/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work (E/AC.51/2001/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat containing a list of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2001/L.3)

Note by the Secretariat on the current notional costs of documentation and utilization of interpretation services (E/AC.51/2001/L.4)

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

In its resolution 54/236, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-ninth session (A/54/16), regarding the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations namely, (a) that the agenda item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" be retained on the agenda of the General Assembly, and (b) that a progress report on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations be submitted biennially to the General Assembly through the appropriate intergovernmental bodies.

Documentation

Progress report on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

4. Programme questions

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Pursuant to its terms of reference (see Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex), the Committee will consider the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

In accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Secretary-General shall provide the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the budgetary period; the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals; and the Committee shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme implications of its recommendations.

It will be recalled that, in line with the budgetary process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213, the Committee, at its fortieth session, considered the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. In examining the outline, the Committee used as a framework the four elements listed

in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/186), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213, annex I.

In its resolution 55/233, the General Assembly took note of the report of Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/55/16) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/55/685 and Corr.1), and reaffirmed that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

The Assembly decided that the preliminary estimate of resources for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 should include a provision for special political missions, in the amount of US$ 93.7 million at revised 2000-2001 rates, which should be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and that additional requirements shall continue to be treated in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213.

The Assembly invited the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 on the basis of a total preliminary estimate of US$ 2,515.3 million at revised 2000-2001 rates, and decided that the priorities for the biennium 2002-2003 were the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Assembly also decided that the contingency fund should be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/6) (in fascicle form)

(b) Evaluation

(i) In-depth evaluation

At its fortieth session, the Committee decided on a schedule of topics for in-depth evaluation, according to which it would undertake in 2001 an in-depth evaluation on sustainable development and population.

(ii) Triennial review

The Committee will also undertake a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made at its thirty-eighth session on the evaluation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and on the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on sustainable development (E/AC.51/2001/2)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on population (E/AC.51/2001/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session on the evaluation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/AC.51/2001/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session on the evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (E/AC.51/2001/5)

5. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 2000.

At its thirty-ninth session, the Committee noted the improvements in the content and format of the ACC annual overview report, in line with the recommendations offered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at previous sessions and made further recommendations. These recommendations were that the report include information concerning levels of aid flows and provide detail on follow-up actions rather than on past ACC decisions; greater detail as to how legislative mandates coming from the Economic and Social Council are implemented by the system and also which of these mandates have been found not possible to implement and why; for priority attention to be given to Africa and for African development; to continue

to monitor the impact of the financial crisis and the other negative consequences of globalization; for priority to be given to follow-up on the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits; for information on progress on the impact of sanctions on third-party States and assistance to the affected countries. The Committee also recommended that it be regularly briefed on the outcomes of ACC meetings.

At its fortieth session, the Committee recommended that while the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa should continue to be addressed, attention must be given to other geographical regions, in particular to Asia.

The Committee noted that ACC continued to give attention to issues of staff security for its improvement. The Committee also emphasized the need for considering the establishment of an intergovernmental process to study the cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector.

The Committee also recommended that ACC continue its work for the implementation of the relevant intergovernmental mandates and report on its progress in the context of its annual overview reports.

The Committee noted that in the context of its report regarding the challenge of globalization, ACC had frequently used terminology reflecting some concepts that had not been adopted by intergovernmental bodies, and recommended that in future ACC focus on accepted concepts.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 2000 (E/2001/___)

(b) Implementation of the Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

At its fortieth session, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/2000/6 and Corr.1), and in noting the results achieved recalled the pivotal role it had played in setting in motion various mechanisms and frameworks relating to Africa.

The Committee stressed the importance of resource mobilization for the Special Initiative, and in that connection expressed support for the resource mobilization strategy set out in annex I to the report.

The Committee requested that an independent evaluation covering the five-year duration of the Special Initiative be carried out and submitted to it for consideration at its forty-first session, in 2001.

The Committee reiterated the importance that it attached to its previous recommendation, agreed upon during its thirty-eighth session, that the different lead agencies be called upon, under the coordination of the ACC Steering Committee, to develop, in their respective areas, a common strategic framework for action that would analyse and highlight problems, set goals, determine the respective contributions of organizations, indicate necessary resources and set reference points, including performance indicators.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the independent evaluation of the implementation of the Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (E/AC.51/2001/6)

(c) Draft system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 2002-2005

At its fortieth session, the Committee took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the plan (E/AC.51/2000/7) and recommended considering it prior to its submission to the Economic and Social Council.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the draft system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 2002-2005 (E/2001/__)

6. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under this item, the Committee will consider the report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit selected by the Committee during its organizational meeting on 2 May 2001.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 42/218, by which the Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely reports of the Joint Inspection Unit which were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to Assembly resolution 45/237.

In its resolution 48/221, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the Joint Inspection Unit, in its future work programmes, to put more emphasis on inspection and evaluation to ensure optimum use of funds in order to enhance the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations system. It also requested the Joint Inspection Unit, when appropriate, to provide in its reports information on estimated financial implications or possible cost savings resulting from the implementation of the recommendations formulated therein.

Also, in its resolution 48/221, the General Assembly called upon the Joint Inspection Unit to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and to include the relevant information regularly in its annual reports. The Assembly also invited the Joint Inspection Unit to maintain a close relationship with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the International Civil Service Commission, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Panel of External Auditors and organizations and bodies within the United Nations system in order to ensure greater and more cost-effective coordination of their respective activities for the promotion of management efficiency, greater accountability and transparency of the United Nations and other participating organizations, and requested the executive heads of the participating organizations to increase their efforts to make detailed and timely comments on Joint Inspection Unit reports and to ensure that their governing bodies considered those reports.

Furthermore, in paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of its resolution 48/218 B, by which it established the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the General Assembly decided that the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit should be provided with copies of all final reports produced by the Office as well as the comments of the Secretary-General on them and should provide the Assembly with their comments as appropriate.

In its resolution 50/233 of 7 June 1996, the General Assembly requested the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to focus its reports on important priority items, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations on precisely defined issues. It also requested the Joint Inspection Unit to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports can be thoroughly and effectively utilized by these organs.

In its resolution 54/16, the General Assembly invited the Unit, while preparing its annual programme of work, to give priority to the reports requested by the participating organizations. It also endorsed the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit (see A/52/34, annex I), and in that connection invited the Unit to include in its annual reports approved recommendations that had not been implemented and requested the system to be implemented expeditiously.

In its resolution 55/230, the General Assembly stressed the importance of timely consideration of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit by all participating organizations. In the same resolution, it invited the Joint Inspection Unit to continue to develop interaction with other United Nations oversight bodies and to intensify relations with the oversight bodies of other participating organizations with a view to better coordination and sharing best practices.

Documentation

Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

7. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

At its fortieth session, the Committee considered the item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate", and reviewed the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations agreed to by the Committee on the matter at its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions.

The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to meeting its terms of reference as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and its annex. The Committee recalled paragraph 41 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, in which the Assembly had urged it to make further improvement in its programme and methods of work to facilitate the full discharge of its responsibilities, and paragraph 46 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, in which the Assembly had called for measures to be taken by Member States to facilitate representation at a high level of expertise and to ensure the continuity of such representation.

The Committee reiterated that the revisions to the medium-term plan — or in the case of a new draft, legislative mandates — should be included in the form of footnotes, and emphasized that, in accordance with paragraph 27 of part I of General Assembly resolution 54/249, all future programme budgets should include legislative mandates for programme narratives.

The Committee emphasized the need for brief and concise oral presentation of reports by the Secretariat, and also emphasized the need for the presence of senior programme managers to assist the Committee in its deliberations on the agenda items pertaining to the areas of their respective responsibilities. The Committee underlined the importance of effective implementation of its conclusions and recommendations.

8. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-second session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, to enable it to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Committee (E/AC.51/2001/L.5)

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-first session

The report of the Committee on its forty-first session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Documentation

Draft report (E/AC.51/2001/L.6)